

Message Text

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16/17

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PAGE 2 PARA 2 AND 3 PAGE 3 PARA 5)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EAID, BG

SUBJECT: BANGLADESH PL 480 TITLE I AGREEMENT

REF: DACCA 4153, STATE 208261; DACCA 4280; STATE 209645.

1. ASHRAFUZZAMAN, JOINT SECRETARY, PLANNING COMMISSION, INFORMED EMBOFF SEPTEMBER 24 THAT BDG PLANNING COMMISSION AUTHORITIES ACCEPT DRAFT TEXT OF AGREED MINUTES TO BE APPENDED TO PROPOSED PL 480 AGREEMENT. TEXT FOLLOWS. WE AWAIT YOUR COMMENTS BUT ARE HOPEFUL IN LIGHT REFTEL EXCHANGES CONCURRENCE ON THIS TEXT, THAT THIS TEXT IS ACCEPTABLE.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

AGREED MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS ON SEPTEMBER 9 AND 14, 1974 BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADEH (BDG) AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (USG) REGARDING THE PL 480, TITLE I AGREEMENT FOR FY 1975.

1. SALES PROCEEDS

USG OFFICIALS POINTED OUT THAT THE LANGUAGE IN PART I, ARTICLE II OF THE AGREEMENT WAS STANDARD FOR ALL SUCH AGREEMENTS. BDG OFFICIALS EXPLAINED THAT THE FOODGRAINS
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IMPORTED UNDER THIS AGREEMENT WOULD BE SOLD AT LESS THAN

THE LOCAL CURRENCY EQUIVALENT OF THE DOLLAR DISBURSEMENT BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE FINANCING OF THOSE FOODGRAINS AND THUS THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF THE PROCEEDS ACCRUING TO BANGLADESH WOULD BE LESS THAN THE LOCAL CURRENCY EQUIVALENT OF SUCH USG DOLLAR DISBURSEMENT. HOWEVER, BDG OFFICIALS NOTED THAT THE 1974/75 ANNUAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN ENVISAGED DEVELOPMENT EXPEDITURES ON AGRICULTURE OF AMOUNTS FAR IN EXCESS OF THOSE CONTEMPLATED IN AGREEMENT, AND AGREED TO INCLUDE IN THE REPORTS AND STATEMENTS REQUIRED BY PART I, ARTICLE II, PARAGRAPH F AND PART I, ARTICLE III, PARAGRAPH C, INFORMATION CONCERNING EXPENDITURES ON AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT UNDER THAT PLAN OF AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO NOT LESS THAN THE LOCAL CURRENCY EQUIVALENT OF THE USG DOLLAR DISBURSEMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE FINANCING OF THE FOODGRAINS UNDER THIS AGREEMENT.

2. PRIVATE TRADE AND SECTION 103 (C)

BDG OFFICIALS INFORMED USG REPRESENTATIVES THAT ALTHOUGH THE BDG CONTROLS FOOD COMMODITY DISTRIBUTION THIS WOULD NOT AFFECT US PRIVATE TRADE SALES OPPORTUNITIES. THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 103 (C) OF THE PL 480 ACT (ACT) WERE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE BDG REPRESENTATIVES AND THE INTENT OF THIS PROVISION WAS EXPLAINED.

3. SELF-HELP MEASURES: FOOD DISTRIBUTION

BDG OFFICIALS INFORMED USG REPRESENTATIVES THAT GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT OF DOMESTIC FOODGRAIN PRODUCTION WAS ONLY ONE MEANS OF FACILITATING THE FLOW OF DOMESTIC PRODUCTION FROM AREAS OF GREATER AVAILABILITY TO CONSUMERS IN DEFICIT AREAS. MUCH OF THIS TASK WAS ACCOMPLISHED BY PRIVATE COMMERCIAL CHANNELS. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, IT WAS AGREED THAT THE OPERATIONS OF THE RATION SHOP SYSTEM WOULD BE CLOSELY REVIEWED IN TERMS OF ITS OBJECTIVES, INCLUDING ITS RELATIONSHIP TO DOMESTIC PRODUCTION GOALS.

4. APPLICABLE EXCHANGE RATE

BDG AND USG OFFICIALS AGREE THAT THERE IS NO INCONSISTENCY IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE INTENT OR EFFECT OF THE LANGUAGE ON THE APPLICABLE EXCHANGE RATE IN THE PL 480 AGREEMENT (PART I, ARTICLE III, PARA G) AND THAT IN THE US-BANGLADESH ECONOMIC TECHNICAL & RELATED ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT.

5. IDENTIFICATION AND PUBLICITY

USG OFFICIALS OUTLINED THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 103 (L) OF THE

ACT TO THE BDG REPRESENTATIVES. THE LATTER NOTED THAT THEIR GOVERNMENT HAD PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED THE CONCLUSION OF THE AUGUST, 1973 AGREEMENT AND THE ARRIVAL AT BANGLADESH PORTS OF EACH SHIPLOAD OF U.S. FOODGRAINS UNDER THAT AGREEMENT. THEY AGREED TO CONTINUE THIS PRACTICE, INCLUDING ANNOUNCING THE CONCLUSION OF THIS AGREEMENT, AND GIVING PUBLICITY TO THE ARRIVAL OF THE FOODGRAIN SHIPMENTS. THEY AGREED AS WELL AS TO COMPLY WITH ALL OTHER REQUIREMENTS OF THAT SECTION OF THE ACT REGARDING PUBLICITY INsofar AS PRACTICABLE, KEEPING IN VIEW THE EXPRESSION OF GOODWILL OF THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TOWARD THE PEOPLE OF BANGLADESH.

6. FINAL PROVISIONS

USG OFFICIALS NOTED THAT THE FINAL PROVISIONS CONTAINED PARA A OF PART III COULD NOT BE AMENDED AS THAT PROVISION IS A STATUTORY PROVISION (SECTION 109(C) OF PL-480) AND IS APPLICABLE FOR ALL PL-480 TITLE I AGREEMENTS.

7. BDG OFFICIALS EXPRESSED THEIR GRATITUDE AT THE UNITED STATES OFFER TO INCLUDE 50,000 TONS OF RICE IN THIS AGREEMENT, BUT ALSO

EXPRESSED THEIR DISAPPOINTMENT AND REGRET THAT THE USG HAD WITHDRAWN ITS OFFER TO AMEND THE AUGUST 1973 AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE THE SALE OF 13,000 TONS OF EDIBLE OIL. THE BDG OFFICIALS EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT WAYS COULD BE FOUND TO PROVIDE EDIBLE OIL SOON UNDER THIS NEW AGREEMENT.

8. U.S. OFFICIALS AGREED TO PROVIDE TO BDG OFFICIALS COPIES OF ALL AMENDMENTS TO THE AGRICULTURAL TRADE DEVELOPMENT AND ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1954 (PUBLIC LAW 480) ADOPTED SINCE THE LAST AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED WITH BANGLADESH. END TEXT

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3. BDG OFFICIALS ARE REFERRING THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT TO ACTING PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE. WE PLAN CABLE REQUEST FOR AUTHORITY TO SIGN AS SOON AS WE LEARN THAT TEXT OF AGREEMENT AND AGREED MINUTES HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THAT OFFICE.

4. PLEASE AIRPOUCH COPIES ANY AMENDMENTS TO PL 480 ADOPTED SINCE AUGUST 1973.
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